



## Marion Francis Rossi

August 16, 1941 - December 13, 2023

Marion Francis Rossi, age 82, of Center Ridge, Arkansas passed away Wednesday, December 13, 2023. He was born August 16, 1941, in Center Ridge to the late Frank and Mary Paladino Rossi. He was a faithful member of St Joseph Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Betty Sponer Rossi of Center Ridge; his children Yvonne Zachary of Morrilton; Johnny (Sundee) Rossi of Amarillo, TX; Ken (Faryl) Rossi of Fort Smith; Jennifer (Kyle) Priest of Little Rock; and Cheryl (Mark O'Reilly) Rossi-O'Reilly of Fayetteville; and 13 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his brothers and sisters Ed Rossi, Louise Crews, Gloria DeSalvo, Lucille Conway, Rev. Raymond Rossi, and Charles Rossi. Marion was a cattle farmer on the land where his grandfather settled after immigrating from Italy. His love and passion for farming led to him being named Conway County Farm Family of the Year in 1988. He took great pride in his land and was always working on a new project. He was a devout Catholic and an active member of St Joseph's Catholic Church. Among his numerous roles, he led the rosary before Mass for many years and served as a lector, Eucharistic minister, and altar server at daily masses. He also volunteered at the Center Ridge Food Pantry which was part of the Arkansas Food Bank. He was a devoted husband and father and loved spending time with his grandchildren.

Anyone who met Marion will always remember his laugh and mischievous smile. He never met a stranger and would have people laughing with his wit

and humor in no time. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to St Joseph's Catholic Church or the Arkansas Food Bank.

The funeral mass will be at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 16, at St. Joseph Catholic Church with Father Jack Harris officiating. Burial will be at St. Joseph Cemetery. Rosary will be from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. with the visitation following until 8:00 p.m. Friday, at the Harris Chapel.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Joseph Cemetery

Center Ridge, AR

# Previous Events

## Rosary

DEC **15.** 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Harris Funeral Homes - Morrilton  
1325 Oak St  
Morrilton, AR 72110  
(501) 354-4575

## Visitation

DEC **15.** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Harris Funeral Homes - Morrilton  
1325 Oak St  
Morrilton, AR 72110  
(501) 354-4575

## Funeral Mass

DEC **16.** 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
Catholic Point Rd  
Center Ridge, AR



# Tribute Wall

FM

“ Prayers for Family and Friends in your time of Sorrow. Memories go back many years when we were teens, Marion was a great young man.

Frances Mahan - December 23, 2023 at 10:44 PM

HB

“ What a great guy. It was always a pleasure talking with him.

Harrol & Karen Barnes - December 17, 2023 at 12:45 PM

RB

“ Sincerest condolences for the loss of your loved one. May God give you peace and comfort during this sad time and I pray that your loving memories of Mr. Rossi gives you much joy and peace. Rickey Bonds

R Maurice Bonds - December 17, 2023 at 08:48 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Marion Francis Rossi.



December 14, 2023 at 04:46 PM

MD

“ *Mary, Tom, Nancy, & David purchased the Multicolor Bright Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Marion Francis Rossi.*



Mary, Tom, Nancy, & David - December 14, 2023 at 03:27 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Marion Francis Rossi.*



December 14, 2023 at 03:23 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Marion Francis Rossi.*



December 14, 2023 at 10:02 AM

RO

“ *Marion became a part of our extended family with my brother Mark and Cheryl's marriage. Through the years, I have come to experience his warmth, laughter, and delight in playing with any of the family's children that would come running his way. Our lives have all been made richer from his presence and he will be missed. My deepest condolences go out to all who are hurting and I will keep you in my prayers.*

Rebecca O'Reilly - December 14, 2023 at 09:48 AM

RO

“ Rebecca O'Reilly planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marion Francis Rossi.

Rebecca O'Reilly - December 14, 2023 at 09:40 AM



“ Plants-A-Plenty was purchased for the family of Marion Francis Rossi.



December 14, 2023 at 09:40 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Yellow and White was purchased for the family of Marion Francis Rossi.



December 13, 2023 at 10:38 PM

SM

“ Jennifer, I am so sorry. His work ethic definitely shows in you and your kind heart too. Prayers for your family.

sherri mclemore - December 13, 2023 at 10:10 PM

AR

“ Marion was my cousin. All I think of was his smile and he shared his happiness with everyone he met. He was a rare man and is in Heaven with Jesus. Karen Rossi Bergin

AKaren Rossi - December 13, 2023 at 08:02 PM

AR

“ My 1st cousin “Marn” as Uncle Frank would call him was the only sibling to stay on the farm just like his daddy did many years before. He took great care of the farm & improved it. One feature was the 9 hole golf course with 1 green. Bishop Andrew J McDonald loved playing the course out of the Ford pickup golf cart. It earned brownie points for Fr.Ray.

He was one of the first to discover the tragic Andy Paladino family fire,a sad memory he carried.

Marion was a National Guard Veteran and we thank him for serving. Just like my daddy Bob, he married a sweet St. Vincent girl Betty and had 5 wonderful children.

A funny guy with a great smile, we will miss him but are comforted with the belief that he is “cutting up” in heaven with his mamma, daddy, brothers & sisters.

Sister Gloria will in charge of the reunion.

My he rest in peace,  
Andy Rossi

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**Andy Rossi** - December 13, 2023 at 07:09 PM

MS

*Marion is my uncle. We all called him Uncle "Marn" just as Andy mentions above. He is the youngest of seven siblings, and was loved deeply by each of his brother's and sisters. That was evident since every single one would take their whole family to visit Grandpa Rossi, Uncle Marn, Aunt Betty, Yvonne, Johnny, Kenny, Jennifer and Cheryl each year. Uncle Marn would prepare for our arrival and greet us with love and enthusiasm! It was a guaranteed good time! He took us to chase cows, jump on hay bales, fish, ride a tractor, catch toads, and play golf with only one green!! For us "city kids" there was nothing better than spending a day with Uncle Marn on the farm.*

*Sometimes, all the siblings their families would travel to Center Ridge for a Rossi Family Reunion. Uncle Marn was the host to over 80 people at those gatherings. He enjoyed every minute of it! He planned all sorts of fun activities for the old and young. We were busy all day, creating life-long memories and deep family bonds. In the evenings, after supper, everyone sat outside in a huge circle on lawn chairs, laughing and telling stories until late in the night. The loudest laugh would always be Uncle Marn's. He was the life of the party!*

*We had a Rossi Family Reunion last year for the 4th of July, with 86 people in attendance. Over the three day weekend, Uncle Marn wore a huge smile the entire time. He loved his family and the feeling is undeniably mutual.*

*He is now reunited with his sister's and brother's in heaven, and he can tell them what they missed at the reunion last summer!!*

*May God hold you in the palm of his hand, dear Uncle Marion.*

*Love,  
Mary Ellen (Conway) Stuart  
daughter of Lucille (Rossi) Conway*

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**Mary Ellen Conway Stuart** - December 15, 2023 at 03:04 PM